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| APPLICATION NO.        | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.  | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| 10/773,897             | 02/06/2004  | Duncan Kerr          | APL1P215X1/P2698X1US | 8598             |
| 22434                  | 7590        | 06/26/2007           | EXAMINER             |                  |
| BEYER WEAVER LLP       |             |                      | TON, ANABEL          |                  |
| P.O. BOX 70250         |             |                      | ART UNIT             | PAPER NUMBER     |
| OAKLAND, CA 94612-0250 |             |                      | 2875                 |                  |
|                        |             |                      | MAIL DATE            | DELIVERY MODE    |
|                        |             |                      | 06/26/2007           | PAPER            |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/773,897

Applicant(s)

KERR ET AL.

Examiner

Anabel M. Ton

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 June 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-8,11-18,20-28 and 31-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8,11-18,20-28 and 31-36 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 37-41 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-7 and 42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |                                                                                                            |                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                           | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                                |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1,3-7,42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dowling (6,888,322) and further in view of Scheinberg (6,030,088).
3. Dowling discloses a housing for enclosing various internal components associated with the operation of the computing device (202); and an indicator assembly for indicating events associated with the computing device (204), the indicator assembly being configured to produce an indicator image at a specific portion of an outer surface of the housing when activated (col. 3 lines 45-49, "some portion" is considered to anticipate "a specific portion" since the term "some portion" does not encompass the entire housing), and to eliminate the indicator image from the outer surface of the housing when deactivated (inherent, since when the computer is turned off the indicator image is deactivated or when an event is no longer initialized (not receiving e-mail or having read the e-mail, the indicator image is deactivated), the indicator assembly including at least one light source capable of emitting light (204). Although Dowling discloses the housing being used as a light guide to transmit light from the indicator assembly 204 to

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the rest of the housing (col. 3 lines 21-29) Dowling does not disclose a light guide for directing light emitted from the at least one light source. Scheinburg discloses a computer housing using a light source and light guide/pipe connected to the light source to transmit light from the light source to a specific area of the computer housing in order to illuminate the specific area including a cutout portion (figs 1-2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Dowling to include a light guide attached to the light source/indicator assembly of Dowling for the purpose of providing Dowling with a means of illuminating the housing at a desired area as taught by Scheinburg. One would have been motivated to modify Dowling with a light guide as taught by Scheinburg for the purpose of illuminating an area of the housing a distance away from the indicator assembly.

- Wherein the light source includes an LED or a group of LEDs (Dowling);
- The light source includes a red, green, blue and white LED, the colored LEDs performing color mixing in order to affect the color of the indicator image (Dowling).
- The light is made incident on a translucent portion of the housing, the translucent portion transmitting light without permitting objects disposed behind it from being distinctly seen (Dowling, col. 3 lines 21-29)
- Scheinburg discloses a masking portion (56) wherein the indicator assembly (light source) further includes a mask (54) that blocks light from illuminating all but the part of a specific portion of the housing desired to be illuminated. It would

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have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the masking portion of Scheinburg in the device Dowling for the purpose of facilitating Dowling with means for illuminating a specific portion of the housing.

- The light source is a remote light source (Dowling, Scheinburg)

***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claim 37-41 are allowed.

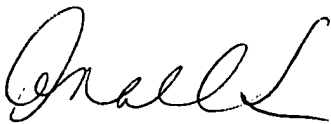
5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the cited art of record does not teach the feature of claim 37 in particular the light guide directing light emitted from the light source so as to illuminate a small portion of the housing component in order to create a shaped indicator image at the extended outer surface of the housing, the area of the shaped indicator image being substantially smaller than the area of the extended surface.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anabel M. Ton whose telephone number is (571) 272-2382. The examiner can normally be reached on 08:00-16:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on (571) 272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Anabel M Ton  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2875

AMT